

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 SEP 2005

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sample testing device for testing for the presence of a component of interest in a liquid sample, the device comprising:

(a) at least one test capillary tube which has an upstream end and a downstream end and which incorporates a an agglutination reagent system capable of causing agglutination with said component to be detected (~~the test capillary~~);

(b) ~~preferably, but optionally, at least one capillary tube having an upstream end and a downstream end (the control capillary);~~

(~~e~~) a sampling region to which the liquid sample is applied and from which the sample is able to enter the upstream ends of the test capillary(s) ~~and if present the control capillary(s);~~

(~~d~~) (c) a power source;

(~~e~~) (d) a detection ~~arrangements~~ arrangement electrically associated with said power source for detecting the presence of liquid at a downstream region of said testing capillary(s) ~~and if present the control capillary(s);~~

(~~f~~) (e) display means operated by said power source for indicating the result of the test; and

(~~g~~) (f) signal processing means associated with the power source, detection arrangement and display means for evaluating the result of the test and providing said result on the display means.

Claim 2 (original): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the power source comprises electrodes of dissimilar metals provided at the sampling region of the device, said electrodes being adapted to generate a current when liquid sample is applied to said region.

Claim 3 (original): A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the electrodes of the dissimilar metals alternate with each other.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the signal processing means incorporates a timing arrangement which is initiated by application of the liquid sample to the sampling region and wherein detection for the presence of liquid at the

downstream ~~regions~~ region of the test capillary ~~and control capillary (if present)~~ is effected within a predetermined time as governed by the timing arrangement.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the agglutination reagent ~~binding~~ system comprises beads on which is immobilised a binding partner for said component.

Claim 6 (original): A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the binding partner is an antibody.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 to 6, wherein the agglutination reagent system comprises a binding partner for said component immobilised on the walls of the test capillary.

Claim 8 (original): A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the binding partner immobilised on the wall of the test capillary is an antibody.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 to 8, wherein the agglutination reagent system is capable of causing agglutination in the presence of hCG.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 to 9, wherein the ~~or each~~ test capillary is formed by a co-operating plate and lid arrangement, said plate being formed with channels which become capillary tubes on location of the lid.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein downstream regions of the ~~or each~~ test capillary tube have ~~apertures~~ at least one aperture and the ~~or each~~ detection arrangement is provided beneath a said aperture.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 to 11, wherein the ~~or each~~ detection arrangement comprises a pair of electrodes across which a potential difference may be applied.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A device as claimed in ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 12~~ wherein the test capillary incorporates a particulate material to enhance the change in flow rate.

Claim 14 (original): A device as claimed in claim 13 wherein said material is an inert particulate material.

Claim 15 (original): A device as claimed in claim 14 wherein said inert particulate material is silica or bentonite.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A device as claimed in claim 13 wherein said particulate material is a swellable polymer.

Claim 17 (new): A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one control capillary tube having an upstream end and a downstream end, wherein the liquid sample is able to enter the upstream end of the control capillary from the sampling region and the detection arrangement detects the presence of liquid at a downstream region of the control capillary.